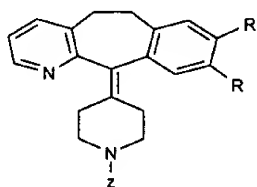


point 161°C-162°C. Remark: all melting points in examples 1 to 4 are uncorrected.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

22. A process for producing 1,4-disubstituted piperidine compounds of formula (I)



(I)

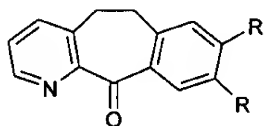
wherein

each R substituent is selected from the group of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine and bromine;

a Z substituent is selected from a group consisting of $-C(O)R^1$ and $-C(O)OR^1$;

an R^1 substituent is selected from the group consisting of straight chain (C_1-C_5) -alkyl and branched (C_1-C_5) -alkyl;

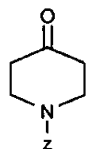
a compound of formula (II)



(II)

wherein said R substituents are selected from the group of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine and bromine;

a compound of formula (III)



(III)

wherein said Z substituent is selected from $-C(O)R^1$ or $-C(O)OR^1$ and wherein said R^1 substituent is selected from the group consisting of straight-chain (C_1-C_5) -alkyl and branched (C_1-C_5) -alkyl;

wherein said compound of formula (II) and said compound of formula (III) are brought in contact and are reacted in a single process step by means of reductive dimerization

(i) in the presence of a finely dispersed metal compound selected from a group consisting of a chloride of titanium, a chloride of zirconium, a chloride of vanadium, a chloride of molybdenum, a chloride of tungsten and a chloride of uranium of a low-valent oxidation stage;

(ii) wherein the low-valent oxidation stage is produced in situ by means of a reducing agent; and

(iii) in the presence of an inert solvent, said reducing agent selected from the group consisting of zinc, lithium, sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, zinc alloys, lithium alloys, sodium alloys, potassium alloys, magnesium alloys, calcium alloys, calcium hydride, sodium boron hydride, and lithium aluminium hydride; and

said inert solvent is selected from the group consisting of inert ethers, nitrogen-containing unsaturated hetero-aromatics and tertiary amines.

23. The process according to claim 22, wherein at least one of said R substituents is selected from the group consisting of fluorine, chlorine and bromine.

Σ₂
cont. 24. The process according to claim 22, wherein one said R substituent is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine and chlorine, and wherein the other of said R substituents is selected from the group consisting of fluorine and chlorine.

25. The process according to claim 22, wherein one of said R substituents of said compound of formula (I) is hydrogen, and wherein the other of said R substituents is selected from the group consisting of fluorine and chlorine.

Σ₃ 30. The process according to claim 22, wherein said inert solvent is selected from the group consisting of 1,4-dioxane, 1,2-dimethoxyethane, tetrahydrofuran, diethylene glycol dimethylether, tert.-butyl-methylether, pyridine, and triethyl amine.

31. The process according to claim 22, wherein the compound produced is 4-(8-chloro-5,6-dihydro-11H-benzo-[5,6]-cyclohepta-[1,2-b]pyridine-11-ylidene)-1-piperidine carboxylic acid ethylester.

I. The Amendments to the Specification

The amendment to the specification to replace the single spaced paragraphs with double spaced paragraphs contains no new matter. The deletion of pages 1-9 and insertion of pages 1-10 were to minimize confusion to the Office and aid in filing. Further the chemical structural formulae are not new matter and are fully supported in